

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, October 6, 2009, commencing at 7:01 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hitchcock, Council Member Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore Katzakian, and Mayor Hansen

Absent: Council Member Mounce

Also Present: City Manager King, Deputy City Attorney Magdich, and City Clerk Johl

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Service and Route Modifications Due to State Budget Cuts for Local Transit Services (PW)

City Manager King briefly introduced the subject matter of the transit service modifications.

Public Works Director Wally Sandelin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the transit service modifications. Specific topics of discussion included the main issue, ridership statistics, current service, financial condition, farebox recovery, service modifications, and implementation.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the \$210,000 operations savings for the entire fiscal year would be realized if service continued as is, but the proposal is to provide a new service scenario to adjust the operating number accordingly. He stated the savings could be due to lesser demand on Dial-A-Ride and ridership being down generally.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Sandelin stated the total cost service numbers shown for fixed route, express, Dial-A-Ride, and VineLine are based on averages of the total package of services delivered under the umbrella of transit, which includes dispatchers, managers, vehicles, etc.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Jay Jeeter, representing MV Transportation, stated it is difficult to say what the savings would be from reduced hours from any specific area because the fixed costs must be factored in.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated staff could go back and factor in the hours and overhead costs and bring those numbers back to Council if so desired.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the express route system was put into place several years ago as a way to capture Measure K grants for approximately \$120,000.

Mr. Sandelin stated the route was set up around the school hours; although, based on representations from the school district, the school bus service has not been reduced over the last five years. Mr. Sandelin stated the express service is no longer tied to the grant as the grant is now for general transit.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Sandelin stated the fixed-route service on Saturday and Sunday and after 6 p.m. on weekdays has the least ridership. Mr. Sandelin stated staff will bring back additional information at the public hearing regarding the ability to reduce hours and services and the value associated with the same.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin and Mr. King confirmed that there is no mandate to provide transit service, although if a fixed-route service is provided, a paratransit service must also be provided, which for the City of Lodi is VineLine. They confirmed there is no obligation to provide demand service or Dial-A-Ride.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the farebox recovery is fairly low and generally everybody ends up paying for the service.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Sandelin stated he does not believe the 20% farebox recovery is being met for San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG).

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the farebox recovery per passenger amounts to \$0.67 and \$1.22.

In response to Council Members Johnson and Hitchcock, Mr. Sandelin and Mr. Jeeter stated the City has about 4,000 flexible hours annually, which is based on the current run rate of 44,000. Mr. Jeeter stated the 4,000 hours does have some correlation in that a reduction of service may trigger contract negotiation provisions.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Sandelin stated there may be some changes coming from SJCOG in the future, although it is unlikely that this particular funding would be taken away.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Sandelin stated the reservation system allows better control of personnel costs as it will reduce the empty buses on the road waiting for calls.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the current fixed route is 6:15 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., the proposal is for 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with passengers utilizing the express service in the morning, 8% of passengers ride after 5:00 p.m., and the express service does not cover ridership after 5:00 p.m.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Sandelin stated the express routes cover the morning and the recommendation is to stop fixed routes by 6 p.m.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Katzakian, Mr. Sandelin stated the fixed routes are 45 minutes apart, the three express routes run between 6:10 a.m. to 7:10 a.m., in the afternoon there is some overlap with the fixed-route service, and the express route is primarily used by students.

In response to Mayor Hansen and Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Sandelin confirmed that it did not appear that many people rode the bus for work, an 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. fixed route may accommodate, and staff will conduct a customer survey to obtain additional information once the service is set.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Katzakian, Mr. Sandelin stated the farebox recovery and revenue is dropping in general.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the City would have to renegotiate the contract with MV Transportation if all recommendations are followed, the language would generally stay the same but there would be a new range of operating hours, and the recommendations do translate into less buses on the road.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the City does have some of the smaller buses now, there will be more coming in 2012, and staff will forward Council information regarding the

difference in operational costs for smaller buses versus larger buses.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Sandelin stated staff will need to survey for the least utilized routes.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Sandelin and Mr. Jeeter stated the City is the only service provider in the region that offers same-day service, the VineLine needs to match the fixed-route service, ridership is low for Dial-A-Ride in the early morning and evening, and doctors appointments are the primary reason for Dial-A-Ride.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the recommendation is to have no transit service on Saturday and Sunday and the primary use for the weekend is shopping and church.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Jeeter stated a few cities in the region provide only Saturday service, while a few provide service both Saturday and Sunday. Mr. King stated it is a zero sum game and if service is retained on the weekend, then it will have to be eliminated elsewhere during the week at an equal cost savings.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated the annual Saturday ridership is 11,000 per year, Sunday is 8,700 per year, with an average of 211 on the weekends.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Sandelin stated staff will look at adjusting the MV Transportation contract for bracket hours to consider service adjustments with varying hours of service.

Virginia Snyder asked the City Council to consider factors such as employment needs, ridership from the east side of town, and overall affect on residents when considering reductions in transit services. She stated the Roseville system appears to be the most preferential.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk